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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3001st meeting of the Security Council, held on 8 August 1991, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item "Admission of new Members", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the members:

By adopting resolution 702 (1991), the Security Council has taken another step towards the completion of a political process in exercise of one of the most important functions entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations, namely, to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the admission of new members to the Organization.

The applications of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea have been considered and unanimously approved by the Security Council. The aspirations of the peoples and Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea have harmoniously coincided. That is why the Security Council decided to consider and take a simultaneous decision on the admission of both parts of the Korean Peninsula to membership in the world Organization.

This is a historic occasion for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Asian continent and the world community of nations.

There can be no doubt that the Security Council's recommendation to the General Assembly advances and underscores the Organization's goal of universality. I am certain that, as new members of our Organization, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea will contribute positively to efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations and strengthen respect for its purposes and principles.

The admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea will also reduce tensions in the region, create a favourable atmosphere for and facilitate the promotion of confidence-building measures in their bilateral relations and provide them with an appropriate forum in which to consider the many things they have in common and to overcome the few remaining obstacles to their unification.

We have recently seen how countries that were once adversaries have found the necessary strength to put aside their differences in favour of their shared interest in promoting the well-being of their peoples and of the world in general. We are living in an age in which mankind seems to be regaining its senses. We can begin the next millennium in a more optimistic spirit. In the positive atmosphere resulting from the end of the cold war, we note with great satisfaction a new manifestation of constructive understanding: the recommendation, adopted by the Security Council, that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea become members of the world Organization.

I wish to conclude by saying that, in my capacity as President of the Council and on behalf of all its members, I am on this historic occasion deeply honoured to address these words of congratulation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to the Republic of Korea.

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